



### Stilgebauer Award 2010 – Application Form

Please provide the information below. This application form needs to accompany the Project Summary for the project to be considered for a Stilgebauer award. Individuals or teams may complete the required information for their own project(s) or for another teacher or group's project	
Project Name: <u>Clarion Online (www.rbclarion.org)</u>	
School Regional Area	<input type="checkbox"/> North Cook <input type="checkbox"/> South Cook <input type="checkbox"/> West 40
District Name	<u>Riverside Brookfield High School</u>
District No.	<u>208</u>
Name(s)-Teams with up to 5 members will be accepted! Include all names.	Email Address(s)
* <u>Daniel Mancoff</u>	* <u>mancoff d@rbhs 208.org</u>
* <u>Cherise Lopez</u>	* <u>lopezc@rbhs208.org</u>
*	*
*	*
*	*
School Name	<u>Riverside Brookfield High School</u>
School Street Address	<u>160 Fidge wood Road</u>
School City, State, Zip	<u>Riverside, IL 60123</u>
School Phone Number	<u>708 442 7500</u>
If you are providing information to nominate another teacher or group, please provide your information below (if different from those named above).	
Nominator's Name	<u>Doreen Fritz</u>
Nominator's Phone #	<u>(708) 442-7500, ext. 117</u>
Best Contact Time	<u>8am - 3pm</u>
Nominator's Email	<u>fritzd@rbhs208.org</u>

Please attach the Project Summary to this form and send to Learning Technology Center One Central at 2701 W. Washington Blvd., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bellwood, IL 60104

**Name of Nominee:** Dan Mancoff and Cherise Lopez

**Descriptive Title:** Riverside Brookfield High School *Clarion* Online ([www.rbclarion.org](http://www.rbclarion.org))

**Project Abstract:** Riverside Brookfield High School's student-run newspaper, the *Clarion*, has moved onto an entirely online format at [www.rbclarion.org](http://www.rbclarion.org). Students now write, publish, and edit news stories directly onto their own web site. Multimedia artifacts such as photos, videos, podcasts, and more are also included.

**Grade Level(s):** 9-12

**Subject Area(s):** English, publications, journalism, web design

**Technology Resources:**

Almost any technological tool or device can and has been used in the creation of [www.rbclarion.org](http://www.rbclarion.org). Students use digital cameras to take photos, digital video cameras to take video, digital recorders to capture interview clips, web tools such as Dreamweaver and content management to create the web site. They've experimented with lots of Web 2.0 tools – RSS feeds, blogging, Twitter, Facebook, and more as they've created the site.

**Other Materials Used:**

Most of the learning tools are technological. Both the web editor and the editor-in-chief were sent to Indiana University this past summer to prepare for the move to a content management system.

**Standards:**

The online newspaper hits every Illinois standard in **Writing**. Students write for a variety of audiences and in a variety of formats – news, feature, opinion column, editorial, etc.

The online newspaper also hits every Illinois standard in **Listening and Speaking**. Students are listening formally and informally as they gather interview material. They also learn how to speak professionally in different contexts as they conduct interviews.

The online newspaper also addresses multiple standards in **Research**. In order to accurately report news stories, students have to gather data from multiple sources, evaluate the usefulness and accuracy of that data, and then present that data (in the form of an online article) to the public.

Again, this project hits virtually every **NETS** standard. Students are demonstrating creative thinking by developing the innovative product of their web site. Working as a team, they use the tools of technology (shared calendars, e-mail, web publishing) to communicate and collaborate. They research background information for their stories using online sources. Finally, the nature of journalism means that they are constantly learning digital citizenship as they consider the ethics of their articles.

Students design and manage [www.rbclarion.org](http://www.rbclarion.org) from top to bottom. They generate news story ideas at "pitch meetings," culling ideas from looking at local papers, talking to peers, watching

the school calendar, etc.

Once a student has an idea, he/she uses digital voice recorders and cameras to augment traditional journalism skills like interviewing to gather materials for their story.

Staff reporters post their stories as drafts directly to the web site. There, they are edited online by the editorial staff and approved for publishing. The media manager reviews the stories and adds multimedia content where appropriate. The editor-in-chief reviews interactive comments sent to the web site and approves them for publication as well.

### **Integration:**

The primary motive behind moving from a traditional hard copy newspaper to a web-based newspaper was to train these interested journalism students in what they really needed to know to pursue journalism as a career. The field is becoming more and more techno-centric. People want round-the-clock, timely news stories with rich multimedia content. Moving onto the web allowed the staff to deliver that product to their readers and allowed the teacher to train the writers and editors in real-world skills that actual journalists use.

Integrating technology into the newspaper has enabled Mr. Mancoff to expose his students to a curriculum which closely reflects the realities of an actual working newspaper. Students can write timely stories, publishing at the click of a button, instead of waiting for a four-day printing period. This allows students to research, write, and vet their stories and then immediately see the impact of their writing. It more closely models a real news cycle.

Finally, the newspaper staff wanted to be more environmentally sensitive with their newspaper. Moving online has led to a drastic reduction in the amount of paper waste and carbon emissions being created by the previous weekly hard-copy newspaper.

### **Reflection:**

Mr. Mancoff shares: "Moving the newspaper online has drastically changed how I teach and how my students learn. I have been able to take my hands off the product as much as possible. The technology has put ownership of the newspaper into my students' hands.

For example, I am no longer setting arbitrary deadlines for stories. Now, students are able to publish content immediately after it's vetted and then get to work on a new story.

Moving the paper online has been a true exercise in real-world, problem based learning. When a student has an idea, they have to work to figure out the appropriate way to bring that idea to life in the newspaper. For example, when my students wanted to do a podcast based on their tongue-in-cheek observations of student life, we had to walk through a number of steps: what's a podcast? How do they work? What tools do we need? What are the ethical implications of involving "talk radio" material onto a "news" web site?

These weren't "canned" lessons that I invented. They arose out of intrinsically motivated student interest, and I believe they were a much richer experience for it."